



NEWS BULLETIN

SUFFOLK COUNTY DEPARTMENT of CIVIL SERVICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

PO Box 6100
Building 158 - North County Complex
Hauppauge, New York 11788-0099
(631) 853-4402

STEVEN BELLONE
Suffolk County Executive

ALAN SCHNEIDER
Personnel Director

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For Your Information from...Suffolk County Department of Health Services
CELEBRATE NATIONAL GROUND WATER AWARENESS WEEK - MARCH 11-17, 2012

DID YOU KNOW? **Americans Drink More Than One Billion Glasses of Tap Water Per Day!**

- In Suffolk County, our groundwater provides drinking water to approximately 1.5 million residents and has been designated by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as a sole source aquifer.
- Most residents receive their water from a public water supplier, though there are approximately 48,000 private wells in Suffolk County.
- Because of our geology and sandy soils, our ground water can become contaminated from activities such as sewage disposal, chemical or gasoline spills, and use of fertilizers and pesticides.
- About 70 percent of our population (approximately 1 million people) is not served by sewers, making our aquifer especially vulnerable to potential contamination.
- While the public water supply remains safe and of high quality, our groundwater is a primary source of pollutants to our streams and bays, especially nitrogen to sensitive waterways.

WHAT CAN YOU DO? **You Can Help Protect Human Health and the Environment by Raising Awareness about Potential Threats to Our Groundwater**

- If you have a private drinking water well, have it tested once a year by the Suffolk County Department of Health Services (631) **853-5810** or a private laboratory certified by the State Health Department.
- Follow directions and State and County regulations when you apply pesticides and fertilizers to your lawn and garden. The link is: <http://healthylawns.suffolkcountyny.gov/>
- Take advantage of local hazardous waste collection events and dispose of unwanted medication at Suffolk County Police Precinct Drop Off collection boxes.
- Support Your Local Estuary Program – To learn more visit the Peconic Estuary Program at www.peconicestuary.org, the Long Island Sound Study at (www.longislandsoundstudy.net), and/or South Shore Estuary Reserve at (<http://www.estuary.cog.ny.us>)

EPA HAS A LIST OF ADDITIONAL WAYS YOU CAN GET INVOLVED. For more information on each of these, click on the item or visit EPA's web page, <http://water.epa.gov/action/>

[Adopt Your Watershed](#)
[After the Storm – Weather](#)
[Emergency Preparedness](#)

[Nonpoint Source Toolbox](#)
[Protecting Drinking Water](#)
[Water Efficiency](#)

Additional Resources: Suffolk County Draft Comprehensive Water Resources Management Plan
<http://www.suffolkcountyny.gov/Departments/HealthServices/EnvironmentalQuality/WaterResources/ComprehensiveWaterResourcesManagementPlan.aspx>.

Suffolk County Cancer Awareness Task Force: www.suffolkcountyny.gov/cancerawareness.



REMEMBER THE NEXT TIME YOU REACH FOR THAT GLASS OF WATER, SAFE DRINKING WATER RELIES ON ALL OF US. DO YOUR PART TO GET TO KNOW IT AND PROTECT IT.